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Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 090804

62
ORIGIN EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOTE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

INRE-00 SS-20 NSC-07 L-03 H-03 USIE-00 PRS-01 /082 R

DRAFTED BY EB/AN:NLPAZDRAL:DAP
APPROVED BY EB/AN:MHSTYLES
ARA/NC - MCFORRESTER
---------- 013944
O 022253Z MAY 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652:N/A
TAGS: ETRN, VE
SUBJECT: CIVAIR: PAN AM SCHEDULE CHANGES
REF: A) STATE 62579; B) CARACAS 3302; C) STATE 78727
D) CARACAS 3588

1. ON ASSUMPTION GOV STILL HAS NOT WITHDRAWN OBJECTION TO PAN AM PROPOSED SCHEDULE CHANGES OUTLINED IN REF A, AND IN ORDER CLARIFY SITUATION, DEPT. WISHES AMPLIFY INFORMATION OUTLINED REF C SO THAT EMBASSY WILL BE BETTER ABLE ASSIST IN RESOLVING MATTER AND AVOIDING ANY CONFUSION OR DISSATISFACTION ON PART GOV OFFICIALS.

2. FYI: WE UNDERSTAND GOV OBJECTION MAY HAVE ARISEN OUT OF EXCHANGE BETWEEN PAA PRESIDENT SEAWELL AND VIASA PRESIDENT BOULTON, WHO EARLIER THIS YEAR EXCHANGED INFORMATION REGARDING SUMMER PLANS OF RESPECTIVE AIRLINES. APPARENTLY PAA PLANS WERE NOT ENTIRELY CLEAR AT THAT TIME AND SCHEDULES AS FINALLY FILED MAY HAVE APPEARED TO BOULTON NOT RPT NOT TO CORRESPOND TO WHAT SEAWELL HAD TOLD HIM EARLIER. WE UNDERSTAND BOULTON WROTE TO SEAWELL
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PAGE 02 STATE 090804

SHORT TIME AGO EXPRESSING SOME CONFUSION WITH PAA

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

APRIL 22 SCHEDULES ON BASIS THAT THEY WERE NOT WHAT HE HAD BEEN LED TO BELIEVE THEY WOULD BE. PAA INDICATED APRIL 22 SCHEDULE IS ONLY ONE PART OF CHANGES AND THAT OTHER CHANGES EARLIER COMMUNICATED TO BOULTON WILL BE MADE

JUNE 26. PAN AM IS RESPONDING BY LETTER TO BOULTON IN THIS SENSE AND FEELS EXPLANATION SHOULD CLEAR AIR AND HOPEFULLY REMOVE ANY OBJECTIONS BOULTON MAY HAVE HAD. END FYI.

3. REGARDING SPECIFIC APRIL 22 SCHEDULE CHANGES, DAILY 707 SERVICE SAN JUAN-CARACAS WILL INDEED BE THREE MORE FLIGHTS PER WEEK THAN OPERATED IN IMMEDIATE PAST, BUT REPRESENTS RETURN TO PREVIOUS LEVEL FROM CUTBACK IN JANUARY CAUSED BY FUEL CRISIS, RATHER THAN CAPACITY INCREASE WITHIN MEANING OF PRESCREENING AGREEMENT AS INTERPRETED BY U.S. WE DO NOT CONSIDER FUEL-CUTBACK RESTORATIONS AS "CAPACITY INCREASES". THUS USG DID NOT AGAIN APPLY PRESCREENING PROCEDURES, REMAINS OF OPINION THAT THEY ARE NOT APPLICABLE HERE.

4. IN REGARD GOV VIEWS OUTLINED REF D, EMBASSY WILL NOTE THAT SAN JUAN-CARACAS SERVICE ACTUALLY ORIGINATES MIAMI. LAST SUMMER THESE SERVICES ORIGINATED AT PHILADELPHIA AND BALTIMORE. WE UNDERSTAND THAT, AFTER INITIAL GOV OBJECTION, PAN AM LOCAL MANAGER REFILED TO SHOW FLIGHTS ORIGINATING SAN JUAN IN ORDER AVOID POSSIBLE GOV OBJECTION THAT THERE WAS INCREASE AT MIAMI, HOWEVER, THERE SHOULD BE NO QUESTION THAT PAN AM HAS RIGHT, UNDER US ROUTE 1 TO ORIGINATE EITHER IN SAN JUAN OR MIAMI (OR OTHER EASTERN ZONE POINT). LANGUAGE OF ROUTE ANNEX AS AMENDED IN 1971 MODIFIED EARLIER TEXTS TO SUBSTITUTE "AND" FOR WORD "VIA."

5. THERE MAY BE CONFUSION RE MIAMI-CARACAS NONSTOP FLIGHTS. LAST SUMMER PAN AM OPERATED 8 SUCH FLIGHTS (ALL 707'S). DURING WINTER IT ALSO OPERATED 8 FLIGHTS (ONE 707 AND 7 727'S). AS OF APRIL 22, IT IS OPERATING 8 707'S. AS WITH SAN JUAN-CARACAS QUESTION, THIS IS SIMPLY RESTORATION OF PREVIOUSLY OPERATED LEVELS.
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6. WITH RESPECT INCREASE MIAMI-BARRANQUILLA-MARACAIBO CAPACITY (ONE ADDITIONAL FREQUENCY TO TOTAL OF FOUR, PLUS SWITCH FROM BOEING 727'S TO 707'S ON ALL FOUR FLIGHTS), PRESCREENING WAS ACCOMPLISHED AS INDICATED REF A, USING JUSTIFICATION OUTLINED IN THAT CABLE.

7. IN ADDITION PAN AM HAS JUST NOTIFIED CAB OF PLANS

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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TO MAKE FURTHER SCHEDULE ADJUSTMENT EFFECTIVE JUNE 26
WHICH WOULD:

A. ADD MARACAIBO AS INTERMEDIATE BETWEEN MIAMI AND
CARACAS TWO TIMES PER WEEK ON FLIGHT 441/442;

B. DROP BARRANQUILLA AS INTERMEDIATE BETWEEN MIAMI
AND MARACAIBO, MAKING FLIGHT 457/458 NONSTOP ONCE PER
WEEK;

C. ADD ONE ADDITIONAL ROUNDTRIP FREQUENCY PER WEEK
MIAMI-MARACAIBO (FLIGHT 457/458), GIVING A TWICE-
WEEKLY NONSTOP OPERATION. FYI ONLY, TRAFFIC FIGURES
SHOW THAT PAN AM'S SHARE OF THE MIAMI-VENEZUELA MARKET HAS
DECLINED BY OVER TEN PERCENT: VIASA'S TRAFFIC INCREASED
45 PERCENT, WHILE PAN AM'S DECLINED ALMOST SEVEN PERCENT.
PROPOSED CHANGE WOULD IMPROVE PAN AM'S SHARE OF THE
MIAMI-VENEZUELA MARKET TO AN ESTIMATED 43 PERCENT DURING
THE 1974 SUMMER SEASON. END FYI.

8. USG IS IN PROCESS PRESCREENING THIS ADDITIONAL JUNE 26
CAPACITY INCREASE AND WILL INFORM EMBASSY OF RESULTS, IF
FAVORABLE, IN TIME PERMIT FILING BEFORE MAY 26.

9. ON ASSUMPTION USG APPROVAL FOR JUNE 26 SCHEDULE WILL
BE FORTHCOMING, AND TO CLEAR UP ANY REMAINING MISUNDER-
STANDING REGARDING SCHEDULE CHANGES ALREADY FILED, DEPT.
SUGGESTS EMBASSY ARRANGE INFORMAL MEETING WITH FONOFF
DGCA OFFICIALS AND LOCAL PAN AM REP, GO OVER FACTS OUT-
LINED ABOVE AND OUTLINE ADDITIONAL PROPOSED SCHEDULED
CHANGES.

10. ADVISE. RUSH
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